GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:294
ANSWERED ON:11.03.2003
LAND REFORMS
BIR SING MAHATO;DUKHA BHAGAT

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the land reforms have been on the paper only in certain States resulting in the benami transactions of land;

(b) if so, the facts thereof alongwith the name of the States where benami transactions of land have been reported;

(c) the quantum of surplus land yet to be distributed among the landless labourers; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to achieve the target of Land Reforms during the Ninth Plan ?

Answer

MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SHANTA KUMAR)

(a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House .

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOKSABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 294 DUE FOR ANSWER ON 11.3 REGRADFING LAND REFORMS

(a) The subject Land and its management falls under the exclusive legislative and administrative jurisdiction of the States as provided under Entry No. 18 of List II (State List) of the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India. The Central Government plays an advisory and coordinating role in this field. Laws were enacted by various States during 50`s with the avowed objectives of abolishing landlordism, distribution of land through imposition of ceiling, protection of tenants/sharecroppers and consolidation of land holdings, etc. The land reforms have brought a significant change in agrarian structure. The work on some other aspects of land reforms is still continuing and the major achievements so far as reported by the States are as follows:-

- Intermediaries abolished on 15 million acres of land and ownership rights granted to 20 million tillers.

- An area of 5.38 million acres of ceiling surplus land has been distributed to 5.58 million rural poor, 50% of which constitute SC/ST beneficiaries.

- An area of 14.74 million acres of Govt. Wastelands and 2.17 million acres of Bhoodan land has also been distributed among the eligible rural poor.
- An area of 163.34 million acres has been consolidated in the country.
- 12.42 million tenants have their rights protected over an area of 15.63 million acres of land.
- 0.43 million acres of alienated land has been restored to STs.

(b) None of the States have reported as yet the information on benami transactions of land .

(c) It is not possible to specify the quantum of ceiling surplus land available for distribution among the landless rural poor, as the targets are fixed based on the availability of land free from encumbrances, as on 31st March of the preceding year.

(d) To accelerate the pace of various land reform programmes including fixation of targets and achievements of distribution of ceiling surplus land are reviewed from time to time at various fora including Revenue Secretaries`/Revenue Ministers` Conferences, Quarterly Progress Reports, video conferences and field visits undertaken by the Officers of this Ministry. The States are impressed upon to achieve the targets in full and report the same to this Ministry.